



IRON MAN

Outline

Revised 10-27-89

Suit as
battery

who put him
together?

Metal pouring, rivets driven into steel, welding sparks, sounds of machinery, resolving into:

Auto plant: Stark Industries robot arms on assembly line inexplicably go berserk. Workers killed or injured, plant destroyed.

Stark Lab: Research scientists confer on plant accident. Stark stock falling dangerously, electronics failing, ripe for long-rumored hostile takeover by TRUMBULL, persistent business rival of Stark's. Scientists attempt to meet with Stark, whom they have not seen in years. They are turned away by Stark's private physician.

TONY STARK'S private quarters in Stark skyscraper: Stark, 48, wealthy, wheelchair bound industrialist/inventor lives in Howard Hughes-like seclusion, victim of chronic heart ailment. A self-designed electronic pacer implanted in a chest-plate keeps Stark's fragile heart pumping.

After dismissing physician, Stark illuminates large black glass pillar in center of office. Dead woman suspended in cryogenic tank; triggers flashback:

Six years earlier- Stark as Iron Man in battle with elusive urban terrorist MARTIN ZEDD also known by the name "OBLIVION". The brilliant and insane Zedd uses the latest techno-electronic devices, some of his own design, in his evil schemes. In an attempt to extort a huge ransom from Chicago, Zedd threatens to engineer a catastrophe which will take hundreds of innocent lives. The city refuses to make the deal. Zed then commandeers a subway train, and grafts his conduits into its control system, taking the train on a high speed death-ride. Zedd also holds Stark's girlfriend as hostage, to keep Iron Man from interfering.

Iron Man is assisted by RHODEY, his pilot and right hand man. Stark attempts to stop the wreck and save the woman. He stops the train wreck, but has heart attack as woman thrown from elevated track by Zedd. Stark cannot reach her in time. Enraged Iron Man kills Zedd with his last bit of strength. *blows him to smithereens*

The tragic incident breaks Stark's will. Convinced that the mere existence of his alter-ego encouraged the proliferation of death-dealing villains, Stark hangs up his Iron Man armor. Although dead, girl is frozen in state in hopes she can one day be revived. Disheartened, Rhodey retires.

Although once a hero, Iron Man has been largely forgotten in 10 years since, and Stark slowly has withdrawn himself from public. (End flashback)

Meanwhile, Trumbull's headquarters: We learn that Stark's ruthless business rival is somehow implicated in the mysterious machine breakdowns at the auto plant.

On Skid Row, RHODEY, Stark's former pilot/sidekick is now homeless. A downward spiral of bad luck has put Rhodey on the streets, but not taken his dignity. Over the years, he has refused "hand-outs" from his former partner.

When Rhodey sees a crack-selling streetgang hassling a couple of vagrants, Rhodey attempts to intervene. He gets roughed up. Nursing his wounds at the Downtown Free Clinic, he sees a newspaper. Rhodey is alarmed by story predicting the fall of Stark's empire. Not believing that the Tony Stark he knew would let his hard-won empire fall without a fight, Rhodey decides to visit Stark for first time in years.

Using knowledge of Stark's security system, Rhodey finds long disused secret entry to Stark's private quarters. Rhodey finds Stark being ministered to by the overprotective physician. Stark sends the protesting doctor away.

Stark and Rhodey have an emotional reunion. Rhodey says Stark better do something or he could lose everything. Stark glad to see Rhodey, but not spurred to action. He offers Rhodey money and a job. Rhodey declines- if Stark will not actively defend his life's work, what's the point? Rhodey leaves, dejected.

Back on streets: Rhodey joins homeless cohorts behind posh restaurant. The Chef is a friend of Rhodey's; gives dinners in exchange for odd jobs. Rhodey is surprised when he witnesses a dinner meeting between Trumbull and Stark's physician. Sensing trouble, Rhodey informs Stark.

Stark calls in his physician. He angrily confronts the doctor about his suspicious meeting with Trumbull. Trapped, the doctor panics and they begin to struggle.

The vengeful doctor goes to the Cryogenic pillar and attempts to shut down system. Stark tries to stop him, suffers heart attack. Doctor drops girl's frozen body to floor- it shatters like crystal.

The physician escapes, leaving Stark in agony of failing heart. Nearing death, Stark crawls across the floor, laboriously pushes aside furnishings to reveal a long-sealed section of wall. He opens the vault-like chamber which houses his old Iron Man suit.

Stark encases himself in the battle-scarred armor. Acting in symbiotic relationship with the chest implant, the powerful suit revives him in nick of time.

Suited up, Stark pursues the fleeing physician. Fighting the long-unused armor's malfunctions, Iron Man catches up with the doctor's car: doctor tries to kill Stark with auto. Iron Man rips the car apart like a sardine can. Iron Man smashes through the posh restaurant, dumps dazed doctor onto Trumbull's table. He confronts Trumbull, warns him off.

Iron
Man
mistakes

Iron Man finds Rhodey on Skid Row, enlists his aid. Rhodey sees Stark is ready at last for action, joins him.

Stark returns to quarters, mourns over destroyed body of girl. ~~He places her remains in metal capsule.~~ He and Rhodey take Stark's yacht out and bury the capsule in the sea. Emotional moment results in chest pains for Stark.

containing her
remains.

As yacht sails off- Bottom of river: pair of scuba divers carry off capsule containing remains of Stark's girlfriend to unknown destination.

tentacles

Stark confides to Rhodey that he needs a physician, but who can they trust? Rhodey takes Stark to the Downtown Free Clinic and introduces him to a friend, DR. ELIZABETH RAYNER. Elizabeth is attractive, ~~late~~ thirties, highly skilled. Her idealism has brought her to work at the Clinic rather than have a lucrative private practice. Elizabeth initially distrustful of Stark's reputation as billionaire. She rejects large fee to be his doctor, is put off by his suggestion.

early

Unseen by Stark and the others, a thin silvery tendril, like a scaly cable, comes from a vent and bites a Stark-built life support machine. The machine mysteriously fails. Using his genius, Stark cannibalizes another machine and saves the patient's life. Stark then points out all Clinic medical equipment is Stark Industries-built. He offers to replace the machines, at his cost, with models manufactured by his rival, Trumbull. Stark and Rhodey take disabled Stark machine with them for analysis.

?

Riding back to Stark HQ in limo, Stark and Rhodey watch on tv other incidents of electronic failures- dam gates opened, power outages, etc.

Below the streets, a crew of workmen investigating power crashes come upon odd, snake-like metallic cables. When the workmen attempt to sever the thick cabling, it suddenly comes to life and retracts into the depths of the city...

In his boardroom, Trumbull concludes a conference with his aides concerning the Stark empire takeover. When the room clears, a strange, electronically filtered voice speaks to Trumbull through his intercom system.

It is revealed that the mysterious being is behind electronic failures, in partnership with Trumbull, in attempt to crush Stark, his empire and to obliterate the very memory of Tony Stark and all his works. The being is angry that Stark's traitorous physician has allowed himself to be linked to Trumbull. The thing threatens the terrified Trumbull, grabbing his throat with metallic snake-like cables that whip from vents and electrical ports. Trumbull is informed that Stark's ex-physician must be "eliminated"...

Stark and Rhodey go into Stark's labs. Scientists surprised but happy at appearance of long absent Stark. Scientists examine circuitry of failed Clinic respirator- discover a strange computer "virus" of unknown origin and complexity had somehow corrupted circuits. Scientists shocked to witness virus actually "leap" via charged spark to other gear in lab, spreading almost organically. The lab is quickly shut down and sealed to stop alarming spread. Stark sets scientists to work on virus diagnosis, cure.

training

Trumbull contacts Stark, makes mock-generous offer to quietly buy out collapsing company so Stark can save face. Stark tells Trumbull to shove it. Meeting set in 48 hours in NY at Trumbull HQ to assume control from Stark Industries Board, who are empowered to act due to Stark's long absence from active participation in his company. Stark determines to be there.

Finally convinced that he must act, Stark puts all his resources to use, including the Iron Man armor, to stop the potentially world-threatening virus. However, Stark must have portable suit to cover constant threat of heart failure. He places all Stark engineers and scientists on the project, quickly building advanced state of the art collapsible suit with more power than previous armor.

To protect his Iron Man identity, Stark has his scientists build separate components. Stark secretly pieces the suit together himself, in his private lab.

MONTAGE showing building of new suit, other tech failures, Stark Co's imminent failure, etc.

training

At airport hotel: Stark's former physician waits tensely at airport hotel, awaiting hired plane to escape from Trumbull. Mysterious female invites herself into his room. The physician is horribly murdered, during glimpses of flashing, deadly chrome appendages.

Stark boards plane to New York. At last moment, Elizabeth joins him. Impressed by his gift of equipment to the Clinic, she has changed her mind, and offers to accompany him as his physician. Stark delighted- his attraction to her unfolds rapidly. Then, virus-infected electronics fail on jet in mid flight. Stark quickly changes into new collapsible red and gold suit. Acting as landing gear for jammed components, Iron Man puts himself between the belly of the plane and the runway. In a hail of sparks, he safely lands the jet amidst chaos of airport in grips of electronic failures. Iron Man intervenes in several other near-disasters at the airport.

New York: Virus expands drastically, beginning to affect very foundations of computer-based society. New York in chaos. Non-Stark electronics have begun to fail, including those of Stark's rival, Trumbull.

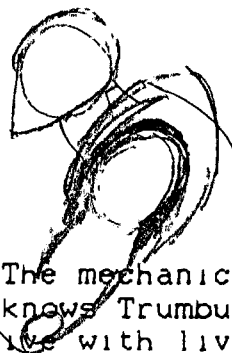
Stark Labs: As a pair of Stark's scientists work on the virus problem, they are suddenly attacked by a metallic cord whipping through the vent. It wraps about one of the scientists, squeezing him like a thrashing python. It is only with a laser cutter that the other scientist is able to sever the snake and rescue his partner. Stark maintenance crews seal off the complex's underground conduit system to prevent further infestation; the labs go on their own emergency generator power.

Examining the severed chunk of techno-snake, the scientists learn it behaves as with its own life, starting to regenerate itself. They imprison the segment in a magnetic field to arrest its spread. Then, they notice that a thick fluid inside the snake is a mixture of silicon and blood protein...

New York: Stark arrives at board meeting to find Trumbull alone and panicked. Without revealing that he is part of the plot, Trumbull begs Stark to join him in stopping virus before they both lose everything. Stark agrees.

Stark contacts Rhodey, needs pre-computer-age aircraft to fly him and Elizabeth back to Chicago. Rhodey arranges for DC-3; also has good news: Stark scientists are on the verge of breaking virus using Stark's formulas and methods. They await Tony's return, needing him to complete work.

Stark and Elizabeth make way across New York; romantic interlude Central Park untouched by technological failure. Elizabeth expresses concern that Stark is dependent on his Iron Man armor; he should look for the strength within himself to overcome his obstacles. Stark is moved by her observation.



Trumbull at home late that night. The mechanical being's voice speaks through his intercom, knows Trumbull betrayed him. Suddenly, the walls burst, alive with living metal cables that stalk and kill Trumbull, ripping his home apart in the process.

Stark returns to lab: finds it destroyed, scientists murdered and all virus-related research destroyed. Cops there, inform Stark that deaths of scientists were similar to murder of Stark's ex-physician.

That night- Stark's private quarters. Stark and Elizabeth make love. Then, as Elizabeth sleeps, Stark goes to the labs and works at his computer, analyzing the surviving data left by the murdered scientists, studying the severed bit of sentient cable.

He determines that the piece carries an inherent electrical charge that responds to remote radio commands. Working feverishly Stark determines that the command frequency can be traced to the giant NORAD base computer in the Colorado mountains. Then, unknown to the distracted Stark, a spark of energy leaps from the virus-laden segment into his heart unit.

Suddenly, Stark hears a scream of terror from his chambers- it is Elizabeth. Stark rushes back to the bedroom and sees an intruder grappling with Elizabeth. He puts up the lights- and sees the intruder is his dead girlfriend. But she is mostly cold metal- she is not "alive", but a deadly hybrid of her flesh and chromed robot appendages.

The robot attacks throws Elizabeth aside and attacks Tony, who is defenseless. Stark's adversary prevents him from reaching his armor. Suddenly, the door smashes down. The old Iron Man appears and struggles with the chromed assassin. As they battle, Rhodey is revealed inside the old Iron Man suit- he has deperately climbed into the armor to rescue Stark. Rhodey fights valiantly, but is out-matched.

Stark manages to put on the right arm of the powerful new armor, and together with Rhodey, they fight the robot back. Stark is able to reach the small part of his lost love's consciousness that remains. The robot relents, recognizing Tony briefly, then self destructs.

The final confrontation with the source of the virus looms before Iron Man. Rhodey and Elizabeth fly with Stark in DC-3 to NORAD base. In armor, Stark flies via his suit's jets into the complex. The DC-3 is shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Rhodey and Elizabeth crash land in desert- continue to monitor Stark's progress through Iron Man sensors.

Stark battles way through defenses sent out by his foe: tank, cruise missile, drone plane, etc. Entering the complex, Iron Man finds the bodies of the base's Army Unit, apparently dead for some time.

Monitoring heart implant by remote, Elizabeth suddenly discovers that virus is in the Iron Man suit, affecting Stark's heart. She begs Stark to turn back, he refuses. Weakening steadily, Stark fights his way to the very core of immense computer, as the machine itself comes to life and attacks him.

*suit
turns
on him*

Stark captured by sentient machine via electromagnet, seems defeated; stripped of armor like a downed knight and left hanging naked and defenseless in the circuitry. The villain at last reveals his identity to Stark. He is Zedd, alias "Oblivion", the enemy Stark believed dead. He taunts Stark, he has taken over world's defense systems, etc. The villain is ready to trigger Armageddon. Missiles payloaded with neutron bombs will kill all organic tissue, leaving a lifeless globe to serve as the host for the spreading metallic parasite that Zedd has become.

With his last bit of strength and remote assistance from Rhodey and Elizabeth, Stark frees himself. Stark realizes that he must face the spectre of death for the first time without his armor. Stark gathers his courage in the revelation that the real "Iron Man" is made of flesh and the human spirit. He fashions weapons from scraps of armor then fights further into the machine.

But, something odd occurs as Stark reaches the core- blood flows from ruptured circuits. Then, at the heart of the machine, Stark finds his enemy. Zedd has mutated what was left of his biological remains and grafted them into a super computer in his quest for revenge against Iron Man. Zedd will destroy Stark at cost of the entire world, if necessary.

Battle's climax- Stark rips out power core from his heart unit and jams the circuit into Zedd, injecting him with a death dealing dose of Zedd's own virus. Machine monster explodes, Stark barely survives.

The world has been saved but must rebuild. Iron Man's reputation is cleared; he is recognized as a saviour. Stark returns to his company headquarters, Rhodey and Elizabeth at his side. He finds the building had been damaged earlier by vengeful mobs. Stark picks up a sign that had been torn from the building during the "anti-Stark" riots. He replaces the "STARK INDUSTRIES" sign above the door as the window as the three go inside.